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[Teaching NeuroImages: Neuroradiologic evolution of Leigh disease.](#)

*Neurology* 2016, 87(14), e159-e160.

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**DOI link to article:**

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000003182>

**Date deposited:**

07/12/2016



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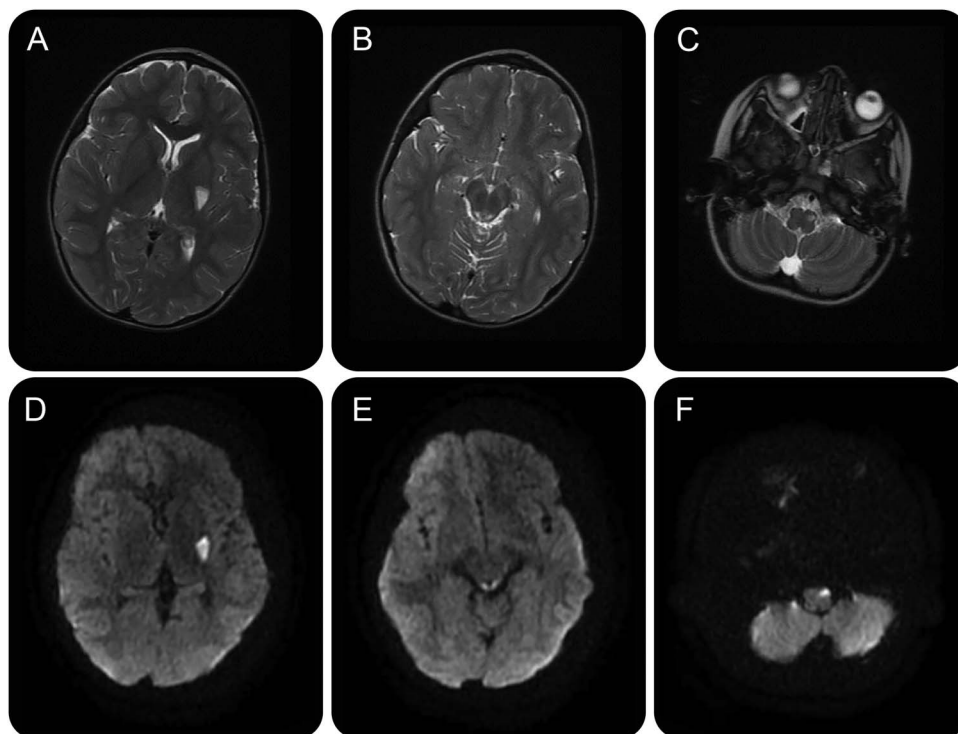
# Teaching NeuroImages: Neuroradiologic evolution of Leigh disease

OPEN

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**Figure 1** MRI head (age 2 years)



Axial T2-weighted images (A-C) reveal hyperintensities involving the left globus pallidus, midbrain, and medulla, with diffusion restriction evident on diffusion-weighted sequences (D-F).

A 2-year-old girl with no significant family history presented with motor developmental delay and strabismus. MRI revealed unilateral basal ganglia and brainstem lesions (figure 1). Eighteen months later, she developed acute onset right arm weakness, leading to a diagnosis of multiphasic disseminated encephalomyelitis. Treatment with steroids and mycophenolate produced no symptomatic or imaging improvement. Her condition progressed, with ataxia, multifocal dystonia, spasticity, and loss of ambulation at age 6 years. Serial imaging showed evolution of bilateral basal ganglia changes, compatible with

Leigh syndrome<sup>1</sup> (figure 2). A heteroplasmic mutation, m.12706T>C in the *MTND5* gene, was identified in muscle.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Y.S.N. conceptualized this work, interpreted the data, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. M.L. collected and interpreted the data and critically reviewed the manuscript. G.T. collected and interpreted the data and critically reviewed the manuscript. R.M. conceptualized this work, interpreted the data, and revised and critically reviewed the manuscript.

## STUDY FUNDING

No targeted funding reported.

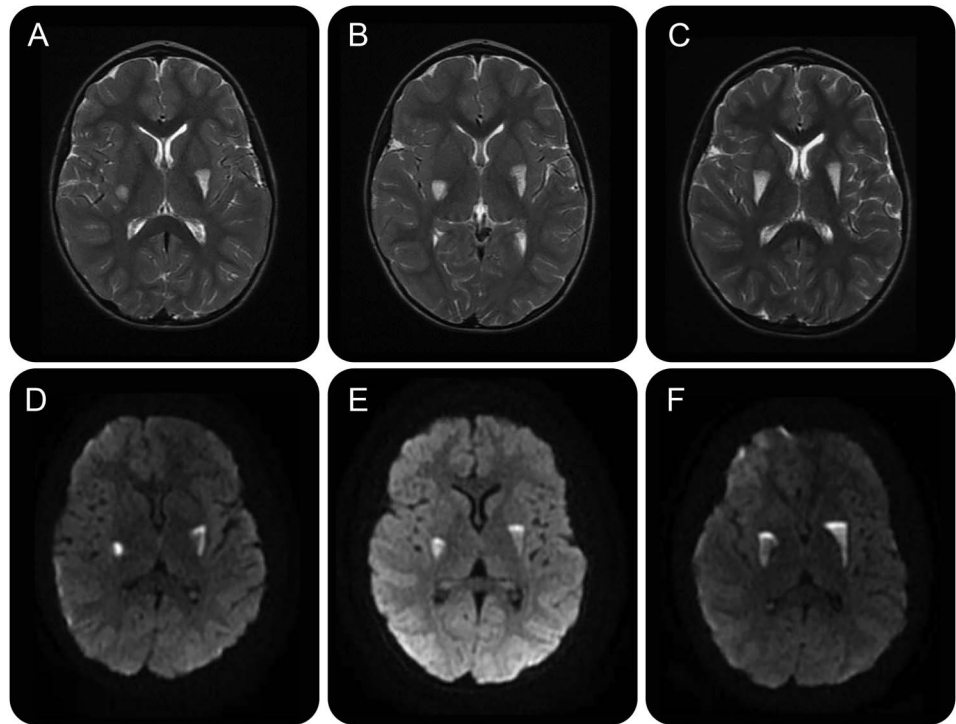
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From the Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research (Y.S.N., R.M.), Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne; Evelina London Children's Hospital and Children's Neurosciences Centre, Newcomen Centre at St Thomas' Hospital (M.L.), London; and Morriston Hospital (G.T.), Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Wales, UK.

Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures. Funding information and disclosures deemed relevant by the authors, if any, are provided at the end of the article. The Article Processing Charge was paid by Wellcome Trust.

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**Figure 2** Serial MRI head images (T2 and diffusion-weighted)



Serial T2 (A–C) and diffusion-weighted (D–F) images reveal an evolving hyperintense lesion in the right globus pallidus (age 4 years). This becomes symmetrical by age 5–6 years.

#### DISCLOSURE

Y. Ng reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. M. Lim receives research grants from Action Medical Research, DES Society, GOSH charity, NIHR, MS Society, and SPARKS charity, and receives research support grants from the London Clinical Research Network and Evelina Appeal; has received consultation fees from CSL Behring; received travel grants from Merck Serono; and was awarded educational grants to organize meetings by Novartis, Biogen Idec, Merck Serono, and Bayer. G. Thomas reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. R. McFarland is employed by

Newcastle University and receives research funding from Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council (UK), and the Lily Foundation. Go to [Neurology.org](http://Neurology.org) for full disclosures.

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*Neurology* 2016;87:e159-e160

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003182

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